FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Vol VI No 232 *3 December 1981*

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OAS MEETING BEGINS IN ST LUCIA ON 2 DEC

Panamanian Envoy on 'Crisis'

PA022146 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2245 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The 11th regular session of the OAS General Assembly, which is to begin tomorrow in St Lucia, will include discussion of what Panama has claimed to be a serious crisis affecting the organization's existence. Juan Manuel Castulovich, Panamanian ambassador to the OAS, is here today to discuss this and other subjects with Jose Hernandez, our news director.

[Question] Good evening, Mr Ambassador and thank you for being here. Panama has said that there is a serious crisis in the OAS. How does it affect the future of this regional organization?

[Answer] I am grateful to TV 2 for giving me the opportunity to make some statements about the coming session of the OAS General Assembly. About a year ago, I became Panama's representative to the OAS; since then, we have been stressing the urgent need for a complete review of the organization, for the following reason: The OAS began after World War II as an organization primarily dedicated to maintaining peace and security on the continent. This original purpose for its existence has changed with the passage of time. Efforts have been made to review the organization's legal basis. The Buenos Aires Protocol, which was negotiated here in Panama toward the end of the 1960's, brought substantial reforms in the organization's structure. Efforts weremade from 1973 to 1976 to update the OAS Charter. The problem is an obvious lack of political interest on the part of OAS member-countries. At the same time, this political disinterest is reflected in a lack of economic support for the organization. The press recently published the problems faced by the OAS Secretariat general in meeting important commitments, like the payment of salaries to OAS employees. Had the OAS not negotiated a loan, it would have been unable to pay its employees' salaries for December. This emphasizes the urgent undeniable need for the foreign ministers and delegation heads attending this meeting to discuss this crisis, which threatens the organization's very existence.

[Question] Mr Ambassador, Panama presided over the group that prepared the agenda for this meeting. You were one of the key people in establishing the subjects for this meeting. Could you briefly explain what topics you feel will be the most important at this meeting?

[Answer] Yes, I chaired the Agenda Committee for this meeting. We introduced a subject to be discussed by the delegation heads. It deals with the current OAS situation and its future outlook. The review that we have proposed, under this heading, gives the OAS another dimension. I believe that the most important point for this General Assembly is that we be aware that this crisis does exist and that we decide the degree to which we are willing to finance the OAS and the level of our political interest in seeing this organization function within its bylaws. I believe that the main subject must be the organization's crisis. Another subject of importance is that raised by the Caribbean countries. They have insisted on a review of Article 8 in the Charter, which forbids OAS membership to Belize and Guyana.

[Question] As a final question, Mr Ambassador -- only 48 hours before the outset of this assembly Panama hosted a foreign ministers' meeting; what benefits might Panana gain from this fact at the St Lucia meeting?

[Answer] SELA, as an organization of which the United States is not a member, permits the Latin American and Caribbean countries to try to agree on their positions. I believe that President Royo, in his opening speech, stressed quite clearly that there is considerable disunity in Latin America. The importance of the SELA meeting lies in the fact that, by meeting as Latin Americans, and as equals, we are trying to establish the necessary conditions for a dialogue with the party we must deal with; the party we have to face when we discuss the problems of Latin American underdevelopment and improvement of the trade relations between Latin America and the United States.

In creating these conditions, SELA also creates the conditions necessary to make ourselves heard at the OAS meeting on the subject of U.S.-Latin American economic relations. Agreements reached at the SELA meeting should be discussed in a forum, attended by the United States, in which we should declare to the United States the goals of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. This should give you an idea of the connection between the SELA meeting and the OAS General Assembly.

Chilean Minister on Meeting

PY011548 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0001 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, 30 Nov (LATIN-REUTER) -- Chilean Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames said here tonight that Chile will oppose the discussion of the problem of Bolivian access to the ocean at the 11th OAS General Assembly. He pointed out that it is a bilateral problem that must be discussed and negotiated between the two parties. Bolivia lost its access to the sea after the War of the Pacific a century ago. Rojas told this agency that it is a Bolivian aspiration over which the OAS has no jurisdiction whatsoever. The Chilean foreign minister was optimistic regarding a solution to the border dispute that Chile has with Argentine. He said that the problem is in the best hands...in the hands of the pope.

Rojas is the first foreign minister to arrive on this West Indies island and he expressed his hope that at this meeting the hemispheric organization will manage to overcome all the problems that have affected it during the past few years, especially those in which Latin American countries have been involved. He said that we have lost too much time in judging one another.

Orfila Opening Speech

FL030034 Bridgetown CANA in English 2245 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, 2 Dec (CANA) -- Alejandro Orfila, secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS), today expressed deep concern with the present direction of the regional association and asked its 11th General Assembly here for specific measures to revitalize it. "I would like to share with the foreign ministers my deep concern with the direction of the organization, and I shall do so with the candor warranted by critical situations, and the equanimity called for in discussing something as valuable as our hemispheric community," Orfila told the inaugural session of the General Assembly attended by foreign ministers and dignataries from throughout the Americas.

"Realistic but not resigned, creative but not utopian, let us strive to revitalize this forum that spans nearly a century, so that in keeping with the dominant themes of the present, it may continue to make its contribution to the future Americans seek and deserve," Orfila urged the General Assembly, supreme body of the OAS. Calling the meeting an opportunity for reflection, the secretary general explained that "my concern springs from two sources: a weakening of the political will of the governments to sustain the activities of the organization and a disparity between the realities of this moment in history and the present structure and functions of the organization."

These difficulties, he went on to say, "are compounded by another circumstance. There are parts of the organization that urgently require revision, as their structures are out of step with reality, the case of the area under the Inter-American Economic and Social Council [IA-ECOSOC] clearly demonstrates this need..."

After stating that "the significance of the OAS as a juridical and political body cannot be denied," and that "in many respects we are an exemplary regional organization," Orfila reminded the foreign ministers of the fact that "the picture is not the same if one looks at the other basic aspect of the OAS: its role as an organization dedicated to cooperation in promoting development." He mentioned that at the height of the alliance for progress of the 60's, "the circumstances of the organization gave rise to a structure that responded to those circumstances. Now we find that those circumstances have diminished, but the structure remains the same. As is natural, reality and structure do not coincide."

Orfila warned that "a disparity of this kind cannot persist for long. There comes a time when responsibility requires a decision. And we cannot delude ourselves, not to make a decision is also a decision, but a negative and indirect one, because the increasing seriousness of the problem will bring in its wake debilitation of the organization as a whole.

"My impression is," Orfila insisted, "that there is a quite widespread attitude, perhaps unintentional, but which makes it difficult to check a provess of decline and diminuation of the organization.... My concern is that, to some extent, what exists is neither maintained nor changed. We need to chart a new course for decisions on what should be kept and what should be changed." The secretary general told the meeting that "what is required then is to call a halt for a moment to see where we stand and decide on the direction to take. With such an attitude we can avoid what we have now: merely a reduction of the organization, without change and without study, an unsystematic reduction that does not allow for rational reorganization."

In summarizing his proposals for the newly revitalized OAS, Orfila made the following points:

-- The OAS forum is a unit, and political and development problems are closely linked. But it is in the sector of cooperation for development where there is the greatest need for reform.

-- It should be ensured that our jurisdical-political forum has a counterpart of genuine counterpart of genuine weight in discussion and negotiation on the broad topics of development, especially as an agent in the North-South dialogue within the region.

-- The objectives of this revitalized forum and the technical support infrastructure will require revision as a result of changes that have taken place, both on the world scene and within the countries of the system and in relations between those countries.

-- A new enthusiasm should inspire the activities that would thus be redirected, overcoming stagnation and indifference.

Orfila concluded that the revitalization of the inter-American system through a new policy of cooperation for development is imperative. Such a policy is seriously lacking, and it is that absence which keeps the system from fully meeting the challenges of our times.

REPORTAGE ON SELA CONFERENCE IN PANAMA

Panama Canal Discord

PA022213 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1155 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Panama, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- After having agreed on a joint economic strategy for dealing with the United States, foreign ministers and high-ranking officials from 26 Latin American countries came to a standstill early this morning when considering the draft of a resolution in which Panama sought support for its position on the canal.

At 0300 on Wednesday morning, after 6 hours of discussions and lobbying and when all but one foreign minister had left the room, the Panamanian delegation changed its six-page draft resolution, which included harsh attacks on the United States, into a proposal that was only two paragraphs long and much more moderate. Thus, the impasse was overcome.

In the original proposal, the United States was accused of violating the 1977 Panama Canal treaties, but in the final declaration the foreign ministers limited themselves to expressing "concern for the actions denounced by the Republic of Panama," without specifying anything and having elimiated all allegations against the U.S. Government.

The Chilean, Argentine, Uruguayan and Brazilian delegations, which lacked ministerial representation, opposed the original Panamanian proposal, arguing that it was a political item not included on the agenda and that the meeting had no power to issue resolutions of condemnation.

The SELA meeting was called for an analysis of the region's economic relations with the United States. The South American delegates stressed that this was only a "consultative meeting" that lacked decisionmaking capability, despite the fact that Panama had invited foreign ministers and other ministers to attend.

Miguel Poklepovic, a member of the Chilean delegation, explained to ACAN-EFE that his country supports Panama in its canal struggle and that it is quite willing to say so, but in adequate forums and in accordance with norms that were being overlooked here.

Peru's Carlos Alzamora, SELA's permanent secretary, said that difficulties had arisen because of procedural rather than substantive matters, since "a cordial, harmonious and constructive atmosphere of absolute agreement" had prevailed.

Jorge Illueca, Panamanian foreign minister, apologized for not commenting at the end of the SELA meeting in the early morning hours, saying that he would have to leave in a few hours for St Lucia, in order to attend the annual OAS Assembly. The Panamanian Government offered an airplane to fly the 12 foreign ministers, meeting here since Monday, to that Caribbean island.

As for the key point on the agenda for the Panama meeting, a declaration was issued in which many aspects of the current U.S. administration's economic policy are rejected, though no direct reference is made to the Ronald Reagan administration. For instance, there is a proposal that joint action be undertaken to persuade the United States to eliminate "the causes of high interest rates in its markets, which have been translated into less stimulus for productive investments in the region and into a greater burden in servicing foreign debt." With respect to another basic point in U.S. foreign economic policy, the SELA countries stated that "foreign private investment must not be considered aid nor be considered a part of financial development assistance."

Trade Document

PA021440 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] During the SELA consultation meeting Nicaragua has denounced the harassment and pressures of the United States against the Nicaragua reconstruction process. The Nicaraguan delegation to the SELA meeting in Panama presented a document summarizing the main points of the economic policy of the reconstruction government as well as the cases of U.S. harassment against the revolutionary process. Beginning on 19 July 1979, the Government of National Reconstruction was installed in Nicaragua. It has promoted important structural transformations in order to open the way to a development that will guarantee the satisfaction of the people's basic needs.

The Nicaraguan position at SELA stressed the efforts to eliminate poverty and to reduce the overwhelming foreign economic dependence in order to defend the political sovereignty recovered with the victory of the Sandinist revolution. The document also emphasized that although Nicaragua has made all possible efforts to maintain the best economic relations with the United States, the terms of trade prices [relaciones de precios de intercambio] with that country deteriorated 10 percent from July 1979 to July 1981. The document adds that this signifies a loss of the purchasing power of Nicaragua's exports of about $52 million, 520 million cordobas, which for that period, is equivalent to 11 percent of the average annual income from exports in recent years.

Tin Negotiation Support

PA021945 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1653 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Panama, 2 Dec 81 (ACAN-EFE) -- Latin American foreign ministers and top-level representatives today, Wednesday, approved a declaration supporting Bolivia in its opposition to U.S. sales of tin reserves. The declaration, which will be submitted for consideration at the next SELA council meeting, "reaffirms the region's solidarity with Bolivia's stand in defense of fair and profitable prices for tin."

The document notes that "the prices which result from U.S. intervention in the international market do not allow Bolivia to cover its tin exploitation costs."

Declaration Issued

PA022004 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1638 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Panama City, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The meeting of Latin American foreign ministers and top-level delegates which ended here this morning approved a declaration in which the Central American group stresses the "urgent need" for substantial financial grants. The declaration warns that "cooperation for Central American economic and social development must be granted under terms and conditions suitable to the countries in the area, respecting each country's style of development and its national priorities."

The Central American countries believe that South-South cooperation is indispensable for the establishment of a new international economic order. They stated this in the document approved by the delegates of 20 other Latin American countries.

The declaration "states its recognition of and support for the 'group of cooperation for the development of the Central American isthmus' because it is an exemplary effort of solidarity in cooperation among developing countries."

Yesterday the Central American countries advocated the creation of this group, to jointly face "their serious economic and financial crisis." The Central American countries, supported by the other countries in the area, believe that underdeveloped countries, "and particularly the United States, in this case," have the "responsibility" to contribute to the Central American countries efforts to overcome their economic crisis. The declaration, and other documents issued this morning in Panama City at the end of heated debates, was submitted for the consideration of the SELA council scheduled to meet in March.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus was in charge of presenting the Central American position. He could not stay until the document was approved because he had to leave early today for St Lucia to attend the annual OAS meeting which started today.

Peruvian Minister on Results

PA022257 Paris AFP in Spanish 1243 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Panama City, Dec (AFP) -- Peruvian Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella said here today that the SELA consultative meeting has been "a great step" in the definition of a common platform for the region's economic relations with the United States. He said that the next step must be the spelling out of that platform in a proposal for negotiations with the United States. He said that the most appropriate channel for this would be the OAS. For Arias Stella, the Panama declaration approved here today by ministerial level representatives of 27 Latin American countries constitutes a body of doctrines which make SELA a forum for regional coordination.

According to Arias Stella, SELA would play this role in such areas as the defense of the prices of basic products, trade that really promotes the development of the Latin American peoples, defense of the unlimited access of regional products to the U.S. market, and rejection of discriminatory positions in international financial organizations.

The Peruvian foreign minister noted that in this meeting the participants did not analyze what would be the best channel for the eventual negotiations with the United States but he said that in his opinion the OAS meets the necessary conditions since a natural dialogue with that country takes place in the OAS. He added that the adoption of a common Latin Americanposition also helps strengthen the process of the international North-South negotiations which require that the different regions on both sides of the table first harmonize their viewpoints among themselves.

Peru presented the SELA meeting a proposal dealing with the marketing by the United States of part of its strategic silver reserves which led to a drop in the price of silver on the international market from $12 to $8 per ounce, causing Peru to lose several hundred million dollars. That proposal was approved in a working group and was awaiting ratification in the closing plenary session tonight.

Arias Stella expressed optimism about the possibility that the United States will revoke the decision "since it has not satisfied anyone, not even the industrial consumers of silver in the United States. Today we received a cable in which the silver miners in Idaho expressed their solidarity with our position and protested the fall of silver prices."

He said that the support of the Latin American countries in SELA "might be the grain of sand that will convince" the U.S. administration.

The Peruvian foreign minister described as a "great paradox" of U.S. policy the fact that the leaders of that country "don't understand the significance of Latin America as part of their need to stabilize the democratic system that they extol and as part of their own security."

"I cannot understand," he said, "why in the United States there is no awareness that the development of Latin America and the strengthening of its democratic regimes are necessary for the stabilization of the U.S. system and its own defense. They have yet to understand this and to me this is inexplicable."

The Peruvian foreign minister admitted that it is very difficult for Latin America to exercise effective pressure on the United States in order to counteract measures such as the one dealing with silver but he said he supports coordination and he recalled how the majority opinion of the Third World ended up imposing the worldwide recognition of the concept of the 200-mile maritime sovereignty. Peru and Chile were the standard-bearers of that concept.

"This sense of coordination," he said, "is what increases the value of the Panama Declaration since the developing countries have historically shown their ability to change the nature of the relationship with the industrialized countries to the extent that they have been able to reach agreement among themselves. This has been the first Latin American effort to seek coordination."

FOREIGN MINISTERS STATE SUPPORT FOR ANDEAN PACT

PA021503 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2322 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Panama City, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The foreign ministers of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela met today in Panama and reiterated their support for the reactivation of the Andean Pact to which their countries belong. After the meeting, the foreign ministers said they are glad with the "important steps that have been taken to deepen (the pact) and to adapt it to new regional and international economic conditions." The foreign ministers said the Andean Pact is united at international forums such as the one that began yesterday in Panama in search for a joint Latin American strategy on economic relations with the United States. According to the Andean foreign ministers, their respective governments completely support regional integration and this will be manifested in specific actions. This week the five Andean ministers will go to the Caribbean island of St Lucia to participate in an OAS meeting.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON VIOLA'S HEALTH

PY021721 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] After midday a medical report was issued by the professionals who are taking care of General Viola's health. The text of the medical report is as follows: "It is reported that the president of the nation has shown an improvement in his clinical state and that this week he will undergo a cineangiocardiography [cinecoronariografia] in order to complete the scheduled medical studies. Therefore, the president's health continues developing favorably."

FOREIGN MINISTER CAMILION LEAVES FOR OAS ASSEMBLY

PY021229 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1015 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion today said that the Argentine Government's answer to Pope John Paul II will probably be delivered in the next few days. He also confirmed that he will visit Colombia on 16 and 17 December in response to an official invitation from that country. Camilion made these remarks at the Aeroparque Military Air Base a few minutes before boarding the presidential airplane T-02 for the Caribbean island of St Lucia where he will attend the 11th OAS General Assembly.

He left at 0620 today in the company of Adolofo Listre, chief of his Cabinet; Luis Clarasso de la Vega, director of the Department of Central America and the Caribbean; and Hector Terejina.

Regarding the OAS agenda, Camilion said: I do not believe that extremely or excessivly dramatic cases will be discussed. Rather, it is routine and formal meeting. He added: We will particularly propose discussion of the economic situation of the member countries because it looks as if the OAS has forgotten this matter. And it is an important matter if we recall that 20 years have passed since the Alliance for Progress was created, an organization which did not turn out as expected but was our hope for inter-American cooperation.

Regarding his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the minister said that a meeting with most of the representatives of the Americas is expected. He added: I particularly want to meet with Alexander Haig; we will probably review the continental situation. Asked if an answer to the pope on the Beagle matter is imminent, he said that this document will probably be delivered in the next few days. In conclusion, Camilion confirmed that he will visit Colombia on an official invitation of the Colombian Government on 16 and 17 December.

BUENOS AIRES GOVERNOR DISCUSSES NEED FOR PARTIES

PY012113 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1141 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Nov (NA) -- Retired Gen Oscar Gallino, governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, exhorted the population to "humbly recognize the mistakes made" and to "redress them without arrogance but firmly." In addition, he held that Argentina's problems will be overcome "only" when "we appoint those persons who have the capacity, experience and knowledge which are necessary to legislate and to rule." He also advocated setting up a "vigorous republic in an open and pluralist society," and he maintained that "in order to achieve this it is indispensable to have defined and organized political parties with clear ideas and competent men, because the legislators and executors who will bring about a real and stable republic will have to emerge from these political parties."

Gallino expressed these concepts yesterday in a speech before some 3,000 persons, with members of his Cabinet and some 30 municipal mayors also in attendance, at the end of a luncheon given at a private residence in the district of La Matanza which cost 10,000 pesos admission.

Gallino's speech was the central part of health day closing ceremonies. On this occasion he asserted that after having visited different parts of the province and after having become acquainted with the expectations of its inhabitants, "I could feel that the difference that separates the true governor from the cold ruler is the identification with his fellow men, and herein lies the root of many mistakes." He stated that: Although I detest the hypocritical and demagogic expressions that cater to the docility and obsequiousness of the masses, on the other hand, I am aware that the so-called antipopulism usually conceals a lack of love and faith in the people, and without this, every government action is fleeting and fruitless, it is sterile." Then he said he was "a person of the national reorganization process" and that he accepted "this condition with everything it implies -- with its goals and mistakes -- because the process is a human act and we are not infallible." He denied that the process was "exhausted" as many people believe "or claim to believe in order to please and at the same time irritate the people."

LABOR GROUPS DIVIDED OVER MEETING ICFTU OFFICIAL

PY020220 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 1 Dec 81 p 9

[Text] Argentina's divided labour movement has frustrated attempts by visiting secretary general of the International Confederation for Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) Enzo Frisco to unite leaders to discuss important local issues. And he was snubbed by United Metalworkers Union leader Ruben Marcos, who refused to receive him yesterday. Labor sources said Marcos is bitter because the ICFTU recently removed him from the vice presidency of the organization's executive committee.

However, Frisco yesterday declared that Marcos "was not the ICFTU's victim, but that of Argentina's divided labour movement." Adding that the organization decided "it did not want to be used as an instrument for a fight, but rather, as an instrument for unity."

Frisco met with labour minister, Brigadier Julio Porcile, to discuss issues linked to the Argentine Labour movement which are currently being debated at the International Labour Organization (ILO). However, neither he nor Porcile would comment on the meeting.

Frisco was briefed on the local labour at a luncheon yesterday with leaders of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) and the 62 Peronist organizations, at which the former head of the latter, Lorenzo Miguel, was conspicuously absent, despite a promise to attend. Frisco had hoped to unite the CGT and the moderate CNT-20 labour grouping at a meeting scheduled for this afternoon, however, the moderates refused to attend. Nontheless, the meeting will be held as planned, labour sources said.

The ICFTU would like to see the Argentine labour movement reach agreement but "we can't perform miracles or oblige them to do it," Frisco told reporters.

COMMUNIST BUILDINGS RAIDED, LEADERS ARRESTED

PY030303 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0255 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA) -- According to Communist Party spokesmen, the Federal Police tonight raided three buildings of the Argentine Communist Party (PC) and arrested approximately 30 leaders of this political party. Among those arrested are Fernando Nadra, Roberto Vallarino and Fanny Edelman, member of the PC Central Committee, who were taken to the headquarters of the Federal Police. There is no information on whether these arrests have been ordered by a court or not.

The raids were reported by spokesmen of the Communist Party and later confirmed by sources of the Federal Police headquarters. PC spokesmen said that the raids took place between 1800 and 1900 tonight and were carried out by personnal of the superintendency for federal security. The buildings raided are the PC headquarters at 8033 Entre Rios Avenue; the office of the Federal Capital Committee at 274 Callao Avenue; and the building on San Martin Avenue and Dickman Street in La Paternal neighborhood. According to our sources and information supplied by the neighbors, the police took away from the raided buildings various packages of books, leaflets and other papers belonging to the communists.

CENTRAL BANK IMPOSES CURRENCY EXCHANGE LIMIT

PY020105 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 1 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Exchange controls returned to Argentina yesterday when the Central Bank imposed a 1,000 dollar limit on daily foreign currency purchases by individuals at exchange houses. The previous limit was 20,000 dollars, and the announcement of the new limit sent the dollar shooting up to 12,000 pesos on a newly vigorous black market. The exchange rate for the dollar offered by the national bank fluctuated from 9,800 pesos at noon to a 10,650 peso closing price. Dollar-buyers are now obliged to sign sworn statements declaring their 1,000 dollar purchase is the only one in the day to obtain dollars.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR OPTIMISTIC ON MALVINAS ISSUE

PY302002 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2157 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 27 Nov (NA) -- Anthony Williams, British ambassador to Argentina, asserted here today that the subject of the Malvinas Islands' sovereignty is "practically at the bottom of the list" due to the existence of petroleum and other resources in the zone. The ambassador stated that investigations are being carried out to determine the magnitude of the resources in the south west Atlantic and pointed out that it "is impossible to predict what will happen, strategically speaking, to the islands in the 21st century."

Williams, who is visiting this city because of the presence of the British icebreaker Endurance anchored at Ingeniero White, pointed out that "the state of relations between Great Britain and Argentina is intimate, very good and has a lot of substance." He also recalled that that relationship "had been interrupted for some time but that this situation has been overcome." He reckoned that this will ease the handling of the Malvinas issue "which is something I worry about quite often," he said and also acknowledged that "it is a difficult, complicated problem but I believe that now there is an understanding between the two parties which will make handling the subject easier."

Asked about British willingness to return sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands to Argentina he stated "for us now it is not a question of returning it because this is a subject which is at the bottom of the list." He stated that "the problem now, the heart of the matter is the situation of this entire part of the world and its unexploited resources."

From his point of view the (?issue) revolves around "the investigations being carried out by both nations in the southern seas regarding the exploitation of its resources."

Asked how the existence of the vast reserves of petroleum in the zone had influenced the British position he pointed out: "I must say that [words indistinct] much before petroleum was discovered." He emphasized: "It is not only petroleum, there is also fishing and other mineral resources in the South Atlantic."

He then denied that the United States and other nations are exerting pressure on Great Britain to give up the islands. He also said that despite the fact that "there is good will on both sides there are also judicial issues and personal psychological matters."

UCR OFFICIAL SAYS UK ENVOY SHOULD BE EXPELLED

PY021735 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 2 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] (NA) -- Luis Leon, secretary of the Radical Party's (UCR) National Committee, called for the expulsion of British Ambassador Anthony Williams in an address made yesterday to the Flores Rotary Club.

Referring to the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands dispute between Great Britain and Argentina, the former Radical senator accused Williams of assuming "that they (the British are the rulers of the Malvanas and that they should be allowed the time to exploit (its) oil."

"As an Yrigoyenist I cannot accept the impudence of colonialism," Leon went on, "if I were the government -- and, moreover, the military government -- the British Ambassador Mister Williams would already have been expelled from the country." Pinning the blame on the military, Leon added that, "in times when a military sector can send citizens who ask for democracy and sovereignty to trial, it seems logical that pirates who occupy a piece of our motherland should be sent home."

Leon linked government negligence in the Malvinas affair to inherent failings in the process of national reorganization which, he said, "is wearing out because it negates the republic."

BRITISH MAGAZINE: ARGENTINA TO MAKE A-BOMB

PY022027 Paris AFP in Spanish 1407 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] London, 2 Dec (AFP) -- The British magazine NEW SCIENTIST reported here today that Argentina will have manufactured its first atom bomb by the end of 1982, thus becoming the first Latin American nuclear power. The magazine, which did not reveal its sources, also indicated that the Argentine Government has built a plant for a new nuclear process near the airport of Buenos Aires [presumably Ezeiza]. The British magazine indicated the the North Americans believe that Argentina has already tested a missile capable of carrying a nuclear bomb. NEW SCIENTIST emphasized that the Argentine foreign minister had said that Buenos Aires was capable of producing the atom bomb but had no intentions of doing so.

DECLARATIONS BY PRESIDENT TORRELIO ON AMNESTY

PY011509 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1739 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Text] La Paz, 29 Nov (LATIN-REUTER) -- President Celso Torrelio has said that so far his administration has not studied the possibility of decreeing a general and unlimited amnesty in the country, but he asserted that those who have denigrated Bolivia have no right to be here.

General Torrelio's declarations were disclosed today a few hours after an amnesty petition made by the church to permit the return of a great number of exiled persons.

That problem (the amnesty) is not at present under study, the president told journalists in the city of Cochabamba, located more than 200 km southeast of this capital.

However, the president added that there is no reason why those Bolivians who wish to work for the benefit of the country should be outside Bolivia. On the other hand, those Bolivians who do not wish for the country's progress and who have stained the country's image do not have the right to be in Bolivia.

GONZALO ROMERO ON VENEZUELAN, U.S. RELATIONS

PY301446 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Gonzalo Romero Alvarez Garcia has said that the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Bolivia and Venezuela will be achieved in the next few days.

Gonzalo Romero, who has gone to Saint Lucia in the Caribbean to attend the OAS meeting, emphasized the good Venezuelan disposition to reestablish links with Bolivia. He said that in Saint Lucia he will meet with the Venezuelan foreign minister.

Foreign Minister Gonzalo Romero also said that Bolivia expects that the new stage of its relations with the United States will be fruitful and [word indistinct].

Starting today, Gonzalo Romero will attend a foreign ministers' meeting of the member countries of the Latin American Economic System -- SELA -- being held in Panama.

He left for Panama Saturday night just a few hours before the arrival of the new U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr, who expressed his firm intention to contribute to Bolivian-U.S. cooperation.

Foreign Minister Romero said that the normalization of relations with the United States was the result of negotiations that started last September when Celso Torrelio became president. He added that to reach this objective effective negotiations were carried out and that there was also great understanding on the part of U.S. officials.

INTERIOR MINISTRY DENIES HUANUNI EMERGENCY

PY021846 Paris AFP in Spanish 1704 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] La Paz, 2 Dec (AFP) -- The Bolivian Interior Ministry denied here today that the mineworkers of the Huanuni district have declared a state of emergency. It also indicated that there are no people under arrest in the security facilities as reported by some press media.

It was reported in official circles that due to the 13-day strike in Huanuni and after the Catholic Church mediation took place, a mixed commission in charge of studying the suspension of regulations prohibiting union activity in force since 17 July 1980 was created.

On the other hand, reports from Oruro, a city close to the mining district, indicate that an assembly of mineworkers have ordered the state of emergency asking for the release of miners, university students, workers, peasants and workers of other sectors who are still under arrest for having supported the mining strike.

The Huanuni mineworkers strike was supported by several sectors. After the strike ended, the government promised to release those held for union reasons, the workers promised to return to work and the church promised to mediate in the negotiations for the renewal of union activity.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES NEW LAW ON NARCOTICS

PY030053 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2210 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] La Paz, 28 Nov (TELAM) -- The Bolivian Government has approved a new law on narcotics which establishes strict rules for the marketing and production of dangerous drugs, acknowledges foreign courts and abolishes local immunities. The new law also establishes a state monopoly for buying and selling coca leaves.

As for foreign courts, the law establishes that any government which finds that its laws have been violated will be entitled to request the extradition from Bolivia of the criminals who have been sentenced by the country's own courts.

By abolishing local immunities, the law establishes that any official whose behavior falls under the terms of the new law will be put at the disposal of the judicial branch as an ordinary criminal. In this way, those officers who become publicly involved with cocaine tafficking while performing governmental duties will be handed over to the courts.

The new law also empowers the Bolivian Government to assume control, to inspect and to regulate the sowing, growing, marketing and storing carried out for the purpose of manufacturing or producing dangerous drugs.

The law provides for and punishes the illegal manufacturing and marketing, storing, use or consumption of dangerous drugs; and it concentrates the production of coca leaves in the departments of Cochabamba and La Paz, declaring as illegal all coca plantations outside these departments.

The law establishes prison terms ranging from 5 to 15 years and fines quoted in dollars and ranging from $4,000 to $60,000, according to each case.

It should be noted that Bolivia is the world's largest producer of coca leaves, of basic cocaine paste and of cocaine hydrochloride. This furnishes the Bolivian Government with a yearly income of about $1 billion, while $2 billion more are lost because of smuggling.

According to studies which were made during 1981 and which have been published by U.S. magazines, those $2 billion bring about $30 billion on the U.S. illegal market.

PAPER DISCUSSES PARTIES' CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENT

PY022249 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Dec 81 p 10

[Editorial: "Essential Deceit"]

[Text] In order to have a more or less clear idea of what has happened with the so-called democratic opening, it would suffice to say that it is up to General Figueiredo to call for a special meeting of the Congress during the period constitutionally established for congressional recess should the government want to obtain this body's approval for its electoral proposal. From his very first day as president of the nation General Figueiredo has been reluctant to make use of certain powers which the revolutionary laws have vested in the chief executive. One of these laws -- a typical example of the lack of trust in the legislative institution -- deprived Congress of the power to convene itself.

Even though the loss of this parliamentary prerogative was the result of abuses accumulated during the recent past, the government's tendency was to admit the possibility of a review and even to favor this move. It disagreed with deputies and senators only about the timetable for this, since it appeared to government strategists that these aspects should give way to the specific issues of the democratization program. The opening of the regime toward the basic principles of the state of law had been described as gradual from the very first and it had its own yardstick by which the various steps of its implementation were being judged.

However, this did not prevent President Figueiredo from carrying out his political project without resorting, to a certain extent, to the exceptional means which could have given him a freer hand and ability to move with greater speed than that of the Congress. He resorted to these means only to the minimum extent necessary to offset the pressure of certain internal government problems. The time-limit mechanism designed for the approval of laws which were not voted on in Congress, had been used only once in order to guarantee the issuance of new regulations on the legal st.tus of foreigners. Never had General Figueiredo taken advantage of his exclusive power to call special meetings of the Congress (an exclusive power with the exception of three very remote possibilities), even when it became obvious in 1979 and 1980 that Congress was approaching the end of its legislative period without having duly responded to the executive branch's appeals to resolve certain pressing needs.

One could say that the spirit of the opening was based on a kind of tacit agreement by which the government did not, of course, give up its arsenal of strong-arm measures but would gradually discontinue its use in proportion to the progress achieved by the institutional program.

While the legislators are now awaiting the probable call from Planalto Palace -- without being able to do or say anything because, after all, the constitution is being complied with -- the most clearheaded of them should be thinking about the chain of fatal mistakes and misunderstandings which have led to the sudden renunciation of the gentlemen's agreement, a renunciation through which revolutionary spirit has taken the place of the spirit of the democratic opening. The gentlemen's agreement had been a bilateral accord which was being complied with by just one of the parties. At the level of political relations, even more than at the level of personal relations, the "noncompliance clause" [which frees the hands of one of the parties if the other fails to comply with the provisions of a contract] goes into effect immediately and no appeals are possible. Due to some psychological phenomenon difficult to explain but easy to see, the leaders of political parties had decided to stop fulfilling their part of an agreement which was of vital significance for the maintenance of the atmosphere of and the rate of development of the democratization program.

Thus, they showed (and some even stated) that they saw democracy as victory and not a concession of those forces which had the power behind them, and ended by unleashing a movement hostile to the executive branch as if the latter was complying with a duty rather than making a concession -- which had to be repaid -- by not resorting to the weapons with which the constitutional laws and regulations remaining from authoritarian times had endowed it.

Even though one should not speak in terms of a backslide because the regime did not return to the system prevailing in 1978, we can at least say that there has been a sudden slowdown. As sometimes happens after a sudden braking of a vehicle to the point of halting it altogether, the progress toward a democratic opening will now be resumed under the effects of the scare which dampens the movements of those who have suddenly realized that they have escaped a fatal risk. From now on, the legislators will find it very difficult to get the executive branch to give up certain means which have just been used in the emergency arising from the electoral law affair. For example, it is quite possible that the right of Congress to convene itself may never be reestablished now. It is certain that at least until the end of the current presidential term of office, the government will not accept any discussion about relaxing certain instruments, such as the time-limit on party loyalty. The security law, whose reformulation was being discussed openly and in good will, will now remain unchanged. Equally unchanged will remain the package of presidential powers over the drawing up of the budget; and the same will happen with the broad scope of decree laws. This show of force, which was based on the constitution and its complementary laws, cannot be reasonably called backslide. The laws and regulations were there for all to see. The partymen are the ones who made the mistake regarding who could use them.

PP REJECTS GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL REFORM BILL

PY022042 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Nov 81 p 4

["Note" released by the Popular Party on 25 November on President Figueiredo's electoral reform proposal made public in Brasilia on 25 November 1981]

[Text] The Executive Committee and the National Board of the Popular Party [PP] want to express to the nation their consternation over the note issued by President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo which reneges on all his commitments of honor regarding the reformulation of our electoral legistlation, shocking our people with threats which, if carried out, will represent a heavy blow to what is left of democratic institutions.

We are facing a collapse of the current electoral process. The objective is no less and no more than the strangulation of the opposition parties. Aware of the condemnation expressed by the free conscience of our people, which would have been conveyed in a spectacular defeat at the ballot boxes in 1982, the government is taking precautions, seeking through corrupt and corruptive laws to escape from the implacable judgment that was awaiting it. The blow has been given. Since the announced process has been unleashed, there is no way to stop it, and the outcome will result in the suffocation of the democratic conscience and feelings of the nation, which will again plummet into the gloomy days of an era of "liberticide" [liberticido].

The opposition parties have never refused a noble and worthy understanding with the government; but the government, nevertheless, has always avoided the responsibility of presenting concrete proposals concerning its own objective. It was the Social Democratic Party [PDS] that assumed before the nation the unusual position of obstructing the Miro Teixeira bill -- which only proposes the establishment of the date for the next elections -- in addition to inflicting traumas upon the nation with threats to withdraw from congressional consideration even the messages signed by the president of the republic, disregarding documents signed by the president which have national repercussions. The PP and the other opposition parties have always been willing to cooperate with the government to make feasible all valid initiatives to provide legal norms to the country which may guarantee clean, free and true elections. It was the government and its party that, acting with notable bad faith, has undertaken in this critical hour of national life the dreadful venture of electoral subversion.

WORKERS PARTY LEADERS AGAINST OPPOSITION MERGER

PY021542 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] The leadership of the Workers Party [PT] has again expressed its opposition to merging the opposition parties. PT President Luiz Inacio da Silva gave details of the decisions to reporter (Clovis Mesias) in Sao Paulo.

[Begin Da Silva recording] It has been decided to comply with the party's platform and with the decisions made at the PT convention. We will continue to organize our party. We will work to promote our candidates at all levels. We will continue to completely oppose merging the opposition parties because we believe that a merger would set up the characteristics of the party and we want to determine these characteristics ourselves. We will now undertake a campaign designed to organize PT branches in municipalities of most Brazilian states. We will launch a campaign to increase our membership; we (?already have) a large number of members -- approximately 2 million -- and we believe that it is too soon and too hasty to discuss merging opposition parties. [end recording]

QUADROS TO RUN FOR SAO PAULO GOVERNORSHIP

PY021628 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Janio Quadros has issued another official statement. He has now reaffirmed his decision to run for the gubernatorial seat in Sao Paulo State, thus denying earlier reports to the contrary. Janio said that his machinery will run over his adversaries.

INDUSTRY, COMMERCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM EUROPE

PY030043 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Industry and Commerce Minister Joao Camilo Penna arrived today from his trip to Europe, and was received by Vice President Aureliano Chaves. In addition to the great curiousity, the Europeans are also really interested in the national alcohol program, Camilo Penna stated today after a meeting with the vice president. The meeting took place 5 hours after the minister's return from a 4-day visit to Europe. According to the industry and commerce minister, the Europeans know that oil is a very dangerous product, that is to say, the free Christian world, due to the unstable political situation in the Middle East. Petroleum can raise new difficulties at any moment, and no country will be able to go to sleep peacefully if it depends on this product, the minister said.

Camilo Penna added that Brazil at this moment imports 70 percent of its petroleum, and therefore, it considers important the work being carried out by the National Energy Commission, in the sense of reducing our import rate. Alcohol is now playing a very important role, because it is capable of substituting for up to 30 percent of the gasoline used by the country. The industry and commerce minister feels that the alcohol program is a contribution with the world and not only with Brazil, and for this reason, the Europeans are too interested in the absolute success of our program. He concluded that the alcohol program is already successful because it has an open financing system, eliminating the country's vulnerability and competes with the prices of imported gasoline.

REPORT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN REVEALED

PY020251 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Nov 81 p 12

[Text] Sao Paulo (O GLOBO) -- Industry and Technology Secretary Oswaldo Palma yesterday revealed at Viracopos Airport in Campinas the report on the trip of the economic delegation to Japan. According to the report, negotiations [on deals] totaling $726.2 million were made, [with contracts] to be signed between the end of this year and the beginning of 1983. These negotiations include contracts for the information of "joint ventures" [given in English]; transfer of technology and financing for exports to other markets.

The report states that the agribusiness sector is responsible for the largest share of negotiations, with sales which amount to $615.5 million. The National Union of Animal Feed Industries was responsible for the largest contracts with Japanese "trading companies" [given in English], which anticipate the supply of 2 million tons of pellets of partially processed animal ration for a total of $340 million.

The Brazilian Association of Food Industries [ABIA] will export processed food such as "corned beef" [given in English], fish, fruit pulp and juice worth $120 million. Food producing companies have already sold $54 million worth of products such as instant coffee, liquidized and frozen eggs, frozen shrimp and fish and vegetable oil.

The agribusiness and forest enterprises conducted business for a total of $101.5 million for the sale of timber and press board [madeiras aglomeradas], soybean flour, hardwood, cotton, vegetable oil and other products. The sector of ceramics, granite, marble and abrasives sold products worth $24.5 million, $22 million of which are for abrasives, $2 million for granite and $500,000 for rock crystal. Sales of furnitures have reached $4.5 million and exports of silk reached $5 million. In the sector of services, the largest contract was that of maritime transport totaling $25 million.

The report also reveals that the Cordeiro Ceramics Inc. and the Japan Leasing Corporation have begun negotiations aimed at granting "leasing" [given in English] type of financing for the installation of industrial units in African countries. The operation is for $100 million. In the electro-electronic sector, Sanyo will sign a "joint-venture" [given in English] contract with a Brazilian company headquartered in Sao Paulo, (Sao Paulo), investing $40 million.

MINISTER CONFIRMS SITE OF ENRICHMENT PLANT

PY021627 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals, who came to Sao Paulo to attend the 15th anniversary of the Sao Paulo Electric Company, has confirmed that a uranium enrichment plant will be built in Itatiaia, Ceara State. He noted that it will be a 1,300 megawatt plant and indicated that two more plants of 600 megawatts each might also be built. The largest uranium reserve in the world -- that is, a total of 120,000 tons -- is embedded in Itatiaia. The Mines and Energy Ministry plans to produce 3,000 tons of enriched uranium concentrate annually.

SARAIVA GUERREIRO ON ANTARCTIC, OTHER TOPICS

PY021952 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2100 GMT 25 Nov 81

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Nov (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro revealed today that the planned Brazilian scientific expedition to the Antarctic "will be carried out within a legal framework fully accepted by the signatories of the Antarctic Treaty, and even by those countries which have claimed territorial sovereignty in the region."

The Brazilian foreign minister gave this opinion at a press conference during which he denied reports that the purpose of his trip to London next Friday was to sign the contract for the purchase of the ship Endurance which is equipped for expeditions to the Antarctic. Saraiva Guerreiro said that "Brazil is interested in buying this ship to carry out the expedition planned for 1983, but my trip to London has got nothing to do with that subject." The Endurance of the British Navy, makes periodic trips to the Antarctic region, and on several occasions it carried on board specially invited Brazilian Navy officers.

A Foreign Ministry source also denied a news commentary, pointing out that it had not included the Antarctic among the subjects to be dealt with at the next meeting of the UN Administrative Council.

The spokesman elucidated saying: "This commentary has no legal bases. At present, Antarctic matters are ruled by a special organization through an agreement between the signatories of the Antarctic Treaty, so it cannot and it must not be otherwise dealt with."

Regarding another press report published abroad saying that Brazil would pronounce itself in favor of the return of the Malvinas Islands to Argentina, the Foreign Ministry source pointed out that "that is a matter of course." The source said that "presenting that element as news implies disregarding the historical course of the Brazilian international policy on the subject. Ever since Argentina appealed to the United Nations and to the OAS claiming the return of those islands -- and it does so every year -- Brazil has supported Argentina, just as it opposes and will continue opposing every process that seeks the maintenance of colonies on the continent."

The spokesman stated that the Foreign Ministry has already given instructions to its UN representative to support the Middle East peace plan prepared by Saudi Arabia for "it is considered a legal device that may open fruitful negotiations to put an end to the disturbance in that region." This friendly position had already been anticipated by Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro 10 days ago, when he expressed his doubts about the feasibility of the peace plan signed by Egypt and Israel at Camp David with the United States as mediator, "since it does not take into account one of the main subjects -- the future of the Palestinians."

BRIEFS

POWER PLANT LOAN -- Paris, 13 Nov (AFP) -- The Midland Bank of France reported here today that contracts have been signed in Paris for the financing of a 250-MW hydroelectric power plant in Brazil. The credit has been granted under the 1981 French-Brazilian protocol by a consortium headed by the Banque de l'Union Europeenne. France will provide 191 million francs for this credit. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1836 GMT 13 Nov 81 PY]

OIL PRODUCTION -- Rio de Janeiro, 4 Nov (AFP) -- PETROBRAS reported here today that in the first 9 months of 1981 Brazilian oil production totalled 32,619,857 barrels as compared to 30,519,607 barrels for the same period in 1980. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1007 GMT 4 Nov 81 PY]

FLOODS KILL 20 PERSONS -- Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 17 Nov (AFP) -- It was reported here today that 20 persons died and 5,000 lost their homes during the floods which have been caused by heavy rains in Minas Gerais State. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1417 GMT 17 Nov 81 PY] Brasilia, 18 Nov (AFP) -- A river flooded a small town to the north of Rio de Janeiro, where about 100 families had to leave their homes and seek shelter in neighboring hills. Floods were also reported to cause damage in Espiritu Santo State. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2219 GMT 18 Nov 81 PY]

FOREIGN LOANS -- Rio de Janeiro, 31 Oct (AFP) -- In the first 9 months of 1981 the international financial market granted $11,475,000,000 in loans to Brazil, as reported by the Brazilian Central Bank. During the same period in 1980, loans granted amounted to $9,128,000,000. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1235 GMT 31 Oct 81 PY]

OFFICIAL COFFEE PRICE -- Rio de Janeiro, 31 Oct (AFP) -- It was reported here today that the Brazilian Government has raised the minimum buying price for 60-kg bags of coffee from 10,000 cruzeiros ($87.51) to 11,800 cruzeiros ($103.27). [Paris AFP in Spanish 1237 GMT 31 Oct 81 PY]

GOLD, CURRENCY RESERVES -- Rio de Janeiro, 31 Oct (AFP) -- The Central Bank reported here today that on 30 September 1981 Brazilian gold and currency reserves reached $6.34 billion. As compared to $6,486,000,000 on 30 September 1980. On 31 December 1980 reserves stood at $6,912,000,000. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1238 GMT 31 Oct 81 PY]

CONGRESS DEMANDS MORE PRESSURE ON VENEZUELA

PA030424 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0338 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Bogota, 1 Dec (EFE) -- The Colombian Chamber of Representatives has asked the Colombian Government to "speak more strongly" to Venezuela in order to find a solution to the two countries' dispute over the demarcation of marine and submarine areas.

At a meeting with representatives of the foreign press Aurelio Iragorri Hormaza, president of the corporation [as received], said that Venezuela has been delaying the talks "for not very clear reasons" which makes it necessary to "handle the situation more forcefully."

If a formula to deal with the subject of demarcation of the Gulf of Venezuela is not found rapidly, the idea of taking the matter to an international court is not farfetched, Iragorri said.

He recalled that on several occasions the Chamber of Representatives has spoken out regarding incidents at the border and said that the chamber will soon receive a report on the way Colombians are treated in Venezuela.

On another subject, regarding Nicaragua's claims of sovereignty over the San Andres and Providencia Islands and the Roncador, Quitasueno and Serrana Cays, Iragorri retierated that Nicaragua "has nothing to demand from Colombia."

MINISTER DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH PANAMA

PA030315 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] Bogota -- Harmonization and nonsubversion constitute the fundamental bases to maintain cordial and fraternal relations between the Governments of Colombia and Panama. These relations have cooled somewhat in the past few days as a result of misinformation. This is what Government Minister Jorge Mario Eastman told this station today at a ceremony in which the governments of the two countries signed a joint declaration to fight the smuggling of both drugs and weapons.

[Begin recording] We have realized that at present integration presupposes a number of ingredients that one perhaps did not have to take into consideration in the past. Thus, historically, geographically, culturally and politically, Colombia must serve as a democratic axis for Latin American development alongside the fraternal Republic of Panama. [end recording]

It is important to maintain coordination and consultation mechanisms in order for truth and the spirit of fraternity and solidarity to prevail between the two governments and in the Colombian-Panamanian public opinion, the government minister said in conclusion.

RESULTS OF ANTIGUERRILLA OPERATIONS SUMMARIZED

PA022221 Paris AFP in Spanish 1638 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Bogota, 2 Dec (AFP) -- Forty-seven guerrillas belonging to the 19 April Movement (M-19) have been killed this year in clashes with the Colombian Army in the southern province of Caqueta it was reported in Bogota today.

The results of the military antiguerrilla operations in this region, 500 km southeast of Bogota, also indicate that over 287 Belgian-made weapons have been seized: revolvers, pistols, shotguns and daggers.

The M-19, which selected Caqueta as an operations center, took a hijacked airplane loaded with weapons, which it had acquired in some unidentified Central American country, there 2 months ago.

The Colombian Army then began operations against subversive elements in this jungle region, where groups belonging to the Communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) also operate.

FARC, however, initiated a truce that will last until June 1982, to allow the Colombians to peacefully participate in the electoral process.

Colombia is engaged in an electoral campaign for the election of a congress and a new president for the 1982-86 period. This campaign will conclude in May 1982.

The army's report does not mention its casualties, but according to official information indicates these have been about 30.

ARMY FINDS FARC CACHE IN CALDAS DEPARTMENT

PA021335 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] La Dorada, Caldas -- A new Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, cache was found by 5th Brigade troops. They confiscated dynamite, campaign equipment, large amounts of ammunition and army uniforms. This was found in La Dorada, Caldas Department, where antiguerrilla army troops confiscated the material after having conducted a large operation in the thick jungles of the region.

No arrests were made because the guerrillas fled when they realized that the troops were approaching. An intense search for the guerrillas is being conducted.

STUDENTS PEACEFULLY VACATE FRENCH EMBASSY

PA030050 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Twenty-one students and a teacher of the National University Law School, who occupied the French Embassy in Colombia on 25 November, evacuated the premises peacefully. No arrests were made.

The students left at 1115 after a mediating committee headed by Professor Gerardo Molina informed the students that the National University Superior Council would order the resumption of classes in the law school during the first part of January. Classes were suspended during the first week of October due to disciplinary problems.

Ambassador (Marcel Ness) led the students as they left the embassy located in downtown Bogota. The students covered their heads with grey hoods and boarded a Colombia Red Cross bus which left for an undetermined part of the city where they boarded private vehicles and press automobiles.

One of the occupants said they had sent a letter to French President Francois Mitterrand, thanking him for the good treatment received during the 8 days that they stayed at the embassy.

According to a spokesman of the mediating committee, the university officials agreed to study other points such as the reinstatement of expelled students.

The Colombian Government took no part in the matter of the embassy occupation because it considered it as a purely academic matter. Today, the French Government requested the withdrawal of the police from around the embassy before the students left.

ROYO MEETS WITH COSTA RICAN CANDIDATE MONGE

PA192157 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2244 GMT 18 Nov 81

[Text] President Aristides Royo today began bilateral talks with Costa Rican presidential candidate Luis Alberto Monge, who traveled to David for this purpose.

President Royo was accompanied by Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella. Monge was accompanied by his running mate [name indistinct].

Their conversations are centered on the central American political situation and on Panamanian-Costa Rican bilateral issues.

A joint communique may be issued at the close of their talks tomorrow.

OFFICIAL RELATIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH BELIZE

PA271827 Paris AFP in Spanish 1631 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Panama City, 27 Nov (AFP) -- It was learned here through an official communique that Panama and the new nation of Belize have announced the establishment of diplomatic relations, to be effective 1 December 1981.

The communique said that the establishment of diplomatic relations agreed upon by the two countries was inspired by the desire "to promote the unity and integration of Latin America and international security at the regional and world level."

It also noted that "the two governments are sure that this agreement will contribute to further consolidating and developing the two nations' fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation. These relations are intended to promote the genuine interests of the people of Panama and Belize, as well as peace and harmony throughout Latin America."

Diplomatic sources at the Panamanian Foreign Ministry unofficially reported that Rafael Vargas Campos, a Panamanian journalist, will be appointed the first ambassador to that Central American nation.

LIBERAL LEADER IN FAVOR OF ALLIANCE WITH PRD

PA232218 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Nov 81 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Text] Aquilino Boyd, a prominent leader of the Panamanian Liberal Party and former UN ambassador and foreign minister of Panama, considered that an alliance is possible between his political group and the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) "because we have fundamental things in common," he said.

However, Boyd said that an alliance between the Liberals and the PRD would necessarily be subject to an invitation or request from the National Guard High Command, "which, in the final analysis, is where the real political power in Panama lies."

In an interview with channel 4 newscaster Julio Miller, Boyd added: "The National Guard should encourage a rapprochement with the political parties, which are vehicles for expressing the will and opinion of the people of this country."

Boyd added that "there are many political parties, such as the Liberal Party to which I belong, that have a great affinity with the top leaders of the National Guard, who would not refuse a broad understanding that would guarantee the peace and order we currently enjoy."

However, he considered this peace and this order "as fragile vis-a-vis the serious economic problems facing Panama, such as unemployment, housing, health, education and so many others that slip my mind at this time."

He said that the general's [General Torrijos] death "has brought no strength or consistency in any direction," and to face the serious problems of the country, I believe that this government should inspire confidence by changing its structure so that the country may head toward secure economic goals from now to 1984." [quote marks as received]

The former foreign minister believes that the current situation between the executive and legislative branches "is due to the death of General Torrijos. It seems to me that the government has lost a lot of credibility in its decisionmaking, and has become a government that is swayed by the pressure of gouprs that make themselves heard through the communications media or on the streets," he added.

Liberals Reject Rapprochement

PA262119 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Nov 81 pp 3, 10, 32

[Report by Pablo Castrejon jr.]

[Text] "He who is not familiar with the party's rank and file and with the party's leaders cannot make statements about rapprochement with the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]. Our party has been registered on the basis of struggles and sacrifices. This is why we object to Aquilino E. Boyd's statement on a rapprochement with the government party," Liberal Party leader Jaime Ortega Gonzalez Revilla told this paper.

He added: "The party's rank and file is openly opposed to the government. It is only logical that certain leaders should miss former positions. However, with the Liberal Party, distinctions and positions are now gained through militancy and elections rather than through shady deals.

"We, the members of the opposition, regard as important the statement by Col Florencio Florez, commander in chief of the National Guard, to the effect that 'the National Guard is and must be the guarantor of clean and honest elections,'" Ortega stressed.

According to Ortega, "our president, Dr Arnulfo Escalona Rios, has maintained an unmistakable position of opposition to the present regime at the National Legislation Council. That is loyalty to our party."

Ortega said in conclusion: "We will participate in the fight. As militants of the Liberal Party and loyal to its principles and to its leadership, I can say that our party will participate in the elections in search of power without shady deals but with honesty and militancy."

BOMB EXPLODES IN FRONT OF BUSINESSMAN'S HOUSE

PA261712 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Nov 81 p 1

[Text] A loud explosion was heard yesterday at 0550 across from the Granada Hotel, in front of a building owned by well-known local businessman Fotis Taquis.

A nipple bomb with a foot-long fuse was found later. The device had been attached to the windshield of a car, where it caused considerable damage, no one was injured in the explosion.

Mr Taquis told this paper that he regards the incident as a "terrorist warning against the private business sector." According to other rumors, the bomb may have been aimed at Chilean diplomats who live in the building.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE ON U.S. AID; CANCELS VENEZUELAN TRIP

PA030345 Paris AFP in Spanish 0232 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Dec (AFP) -- Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte has returned to the country after attending a meeting of private businessmen in Miami. The president explained today that "a formula through which the United States might effectively collaborate with the Central American and Caribbean countries emerged" at this meeting.

"If only the United States would open its domestic market to our manufactured products," Duarte noted, "like it has done with Japan, these countries might have a good participation in the Miami market alone, which amounts to about $70 billion."

As an example, he mentioned the case of coffee, a product that can be sold in the United States in grain, but cannot be exported if processed as instant coffee.

He added that if 10 percent of the Miami trade were distributed among 10 Central American and Caribbean countries, $700 million would be received by each of those nations as coffee export revenues alone.

According to Duarte, at the Miami meeting he explained the region's basic needs in general and those of El Salvador in particular, insisting that his country's current deficit amounts to about $400 million.

He said that he had clearly explained three conditions that might contribute to the area's economic growth: investment, trade and foreign economic aid. According to him, "foreign investments will be guaranteed both as regards their security and as regards the mobilization of capitals."

President Duarte added that the three factors mentioned might serve as the basis for a sustained development equivalent to 4, 5 or 10 percent. This would compensate for the population growth, would permit economic development and would help confront social problems with a prospect to hope while increasing the fiscal capacity. "All of this," he said, "would reduce the people's frustration and radicalization."

Duarte finally disclosed that he will not be in attendance tomorrow at the inauguration of the 10th congress of the Christian Democratic Organization of the Americas, of which he is president.

The president gave "health reasons" for not traveling to Caracas, Venezuela, where Latin America's Christian Democratic representatives will meet. He added, however, that he plans to visit that country officially on 20 December.

ORO BRIDGE DESTRUCTION OPERATION DESCRIBED

PA021715 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Nov 81 pp 2, 4

["Exclusive interview" with FMLN Commander Mayo Sibrian taken from the 29 October issue of the Mexican Magazine POR ESTO, by Miguel Angel Guardado Rivas, POR ESTO war correspondent]

[Text] Chalatenango, northern El Salvador, October 1981 -- "For a week we observed the movements of the national guardsmen defending the ends of the Oro Bridge. Our intelligence presented a detailed report about the military garrisons at San Marcos Lempa and San Nicolas Lempa. The strategic bridge was defended by 100 soldiers."

"We discussed the plan of action and the general staff of the Anastasio Aquino central and Francisco Sanchez eastern fronts decided that 15 October would be a good day to stage the attack. That is the day when the genocidal leaders of the Christian Democratic-military junta were going to celebrate the second anniversary of the coup against jackal Carlos Humberto Romero."

This statement was made to POR ESTO by Commander Mayo Sibrian, member of the staff of the Francisco Sanchez eastern front and head of the People's Liberation Army (EPL) of the FMLN columns in this important Salvadoran farming area.

The guerrilla commander said that 90 members of the EPL and 20 militiamen participated in operation Chalatenango. The operation was called Chalatenango in honor of the bravery of the men of Chalatenango, who in 10 days of fierce clashes defeated the U.S. tactics known as "hammer and anvil."

The Main Goals

Commander Sibrian said, "Among our 90 companeros were 10 from the special forces whose task was to take out an M-30 machinegun nest at the eastern end of the Oro Bridge in Usulutan Department and to place dynamite charges at the bases and span of the strategic bridge.

"The operation began at 0015 on the morning of 15 October. Meanwhile, the militiamen were erecting barricades 6 km from each end of the bridge on the coastal highway to intercept possible reinforcements. Other militiamen in small canoes along the Lempa River evacuated the many peasants and fishermen who live under the bridge, while guerrilla groups surrounded the National Guard post in San Marcos Lempa. These companeros came from the Francisco Sanchez eastern front.

"Meanwhile, 40 guerrillas from the Anastasio Aquino central front were taking San Nicolas Lempa. They launched a fierce attack against the National Guard post there which is manned by 25 soldiers. In San Marcos the enemy forces numbered 35."

The Guerrilla Attack Began at 0020

Commander Mayo Sibrian, a husky peasant from the area, who started working in the FMLN ranks, explains that all watches were set at 0020 on that day, 15 October. "At that moment the companeros from the special forces approached the M-30 machinegun nest, which was manned by 5 soldiers on the San Marcos Lempa end of the Oro Bridge.

"At a previously arranged signal, the companero carrying the RPG-2 fired on the machine-gun nest. The shot was so effective that we did not need to storm the nest or use our rifles. Then sappers from the special forces approached the bases and the span of the bridge 200 meters from the San Marcos bank. The companeros still had 10 minutes to wait because the militiamen had not evacuated all the people along the river banks. In the darkness you could make out the small boats going upstream. Meanwhile, the shooting at San Marcos Lempa and San Nicolas Lempa was increasing."

Problems of the Rebel Leader

Commander Mayo Sibrian, who was responsible for blowing up several railroads in the San Nicolas and San Agustin area in Usulutan Department and the capture of two motor launches on a farm in Jiquiquilisco, to be used in the heroic Chalatenango operation, continues:

"The companero sappers worked efficiently. The descent to the Lempa River banks was arduous. They had to get to the exact base of the pillars, which were enormous steel and concrete structures. When I saw the companeros working I thought that the most we could achieve was to blow a hole in the span and partially damage the supports. However, some of the sappers are experts and they had planned to blow up at least half of the huge bridge. The bridge carries more than 68 percent of the nation's trade, especially cotton and grains, as well as enemy troops."

The Pride of the Oligarchy at the Bottom of the Lempa River

"At 0230 the dynamite charges were placed. The companeros occupied their positions and stretched 500 meters of electric wire.

"The operation was acheduled to be completed at 0430 to take advantage of the continuing darkness. The fighting continued in San Marcos and San Nicolas. The liaison companeros left to give the pertinent instructions. At 0300 the first dynamite charge was detonated and the supports gave way; the second explosion damaged the 200 meters of the bridge as planned and the third charge toppled the third section of the great Oro Bridge.

"It was a sight to behold; the companeros started cheering and chanting. The heroic "Chalatenango operation" had been carried out faithfully. That monster of iron and cement, pride of the oligarchy and the criminal armed forces, lay at the bottom of the Lempa River."

Orderly Retreat

"Our preliminary reports were as follows: five soldiers killed in the machinegun nest and four national guardsmen killed at San Marcos Lempa. We had no information on San Nicolas Lempa.

"On our side, we did not even have one wounded companero. About 0415, when many vehicles had been halted by the barricades which our companeros had built on the coastal road between San Vicente and Usulutan, we gave the order to withdraw. The companeros who had arrived via the river used the motor launches and carried G-3 rifles captured from the enemy. We withdrew along the outskirts of San Marcos Lempa. At exactly 0430 all the people's army combatants who had attacked the local garrison were waiting for us at the rendezvous.

"Three consecutive shots from the San Nicolas Lempa side told us that the companeros had also fulfilled their mission successfully. We were filled with great joy. We expected the enemy to send reinforcements immediately, but this was not the case. After the attack, the enemy has repressed the local residents, accusing them of having collaborated with us."

Impotent Duarte Replies With Massive Repression

"The massive concrete structure was destroyed during the revolutionary operation called 'heroic Chalatenango' in solidarity with our companeros of the Apolinario Serrano northern front who only a few days ago defeated a 7,000-man operation supported by helicopter gunships and other aircraft. Duarte arrived in San Marcos to survey the damage. While he expressed his bitterness at what he called the harshest blow dealt by the guerrillas, he insistently noted to the colonels around him that 10 minutes before the explosion the guerrillas had evacuated the persons living in the huts under the bridge. Duarte said that this could indicate collaboration between the inhabitants and the guerrillas. The people were alarmed and commented on the evil intent of Duarte's words which could bring adverse reactions against the people. At this time henchmen are arriving to frighten the people while National Guard members show off their U.S.-built weapons."

Commander Mayo Sibrian said, "The FMLN people's army protests this new terrorist activity carried out by the government troops against the unarmed civilian population. We hereby announce that our organization constantly avoids harming the people, regardless of the circumstances. Our guerrillas proceeded to evacuate the people from the area of operations to keep them from getting wounded in the fighting or by the explosions. It is obvious that the gentlemen in the government are incapable of understanding the principles which guide our forces, or their high sense of responsibility and their revolutionary morale. This is especially true regarding these dozens and dozens of familes compelled by unjustice to build their modest huts on the banks of the Lempa River. We protest the 20 October murders, after the demolition of the bridge, of two men in San Marcos Lempa and of Mrs Tita Flores in El Castano Canton in Usulutan Department, as well as the regime's intention to continue committing similar crimes."

This is how the oligarchic armed forces, the Pentagon puppets, show their cowardice, after some 90 men, fighting heroically, took control of the towns of San Nicolas Lempa and San Marcos Lempa and later of the bridge itself which is a vital military artery. This demonstrates the low fighting morale of the troops of the junta, which to make matters worse, had just published false information saying that the guerrillas in the Angela Montano revolutionary region, only 2 km north of the Oro Bridge, had been annihilated. They made this completely false report on 16 September when they informed the bourgeoise press that they had dismantled the two main camps in (El Caulotal) and Linares. What an embarrassing situation for the junta. It falls flat on its face and so does the bridge."

VIOLENCE CLAIMS VICTIMS IN VARIOUS TOWNS

PA021608 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0131 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- Judicial sources today reported that 28 [number as received] bodies of victims of the political violence occurring in El Salvador were examined during the past few hours.

In Apopa, 12 km north of San Salvador, eight members of the civil defense were killed when their vehicle passed over a Claymore mine which had been placed by leftists.

In Santa Ana, two unidentified women who had been shot to death were examined today.

In San Salvador, five bodies with gunshot wounds were identified in various areas of the capital.

In Sonsonate, Usulutan, Metapan and other towns, eight bodies with gun and knife wounds or who had been strangled were examined, the judicial sources reported.

TERRORISTS ATTACK HYDROELECTRIC PLANT, ESCAPE

PA030229 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 1 Dec 81 p 32

[Excerpts] Terrorists who entrenched themselves in the highlands of Potonico attacked the northwestern installations of Cerron Grande hydroelectric plant using bazookas and other long-range weapons. Military sources today reported that the attack occurred yesterday between 1900 and 1930. There were no casualties among the armed forces.

While the attack was taking place, the garrisons requested reinforcements in Chalatenango and Sensuntepeque. The latter's units concentrated in the area and began an unsuccessful night search. The terrorists had reportedly already escaped.

GUATEMALA

6 OF 7 CANADIAN DIPLOMATS REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN

PA021952 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Guatemala City -- The Canadian Government today withdrew its diplomatic personnel in Guatemala since it has been threatened by the righwing death squads.

Spokesmen of the Canadian Government said that six of the seven members of the Canadian Embassy mission were withdrawn last month [as heard] because of the death threats. The threats began with anonymous telephone calls and letters from the rightwing death squads which also sent yellow funeral wreaths. In Guatemala, yellow flowers are a sign of death threats.

After indicating that in many ways Guatemala is worse than El Salvador as far as the military regime's institutionalized terror is concerned, the spokesmen said that only one staff member remains in the Canadian Embassy and that he will very soon be also evacuated. The mission will then operate as an embassy without ambassador since the affairs will then be left under the responsibility of the residents [words indistinct].

It has been learned that the repression against the Canadians in Guatemala began when the Canadian Government demanded in September that the Romeo Lucas Garcia regime investigate the death of a lay missionary from Quebec who died along with other people during a police shootout in Guatemala City.

15 GUERRILLAS REPORTED KILLED BY ARMY IN QUICHE

WA031400 [Editorial Report] Guatemala City Radio-Television in Spanish at 0400 GMT on 2 December reports that "the army discovered a guerrilla redoubt in the village of Zacapuluv in Chichicastenango, Quiche, and at least 15 persons died in a clash that followed." There were no army casualties.

"Three of the dead were Indians and the rest were Latins, including one who, because of his features, is believed to be foreign and may (?possibly) have been the leader of the group that clashed with the army, according to the official report." The allegedly subversive group contained 40 members. The government seized two submachineguns; an automatic rifle; two shotguns; four rifles; eight grenades, four of which are known as Chinese candles [baston chino]; and four Soviet-made handgrenades.

Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 2 December adds: Included among the 15 guerrillas killed were Cuban Commanders (Jaime), (Rolando) and (Paco). "Although it has not been fully confirmed, there are indications that Commander (Rolando) was the top leader of the (Mozambique squad), which was in charge of harassing the army and devastating villages in the nation's highlands. Among the subversives attacked by army infantry units [as heard] was an 11-year-old girl, a daughter of (Ramon Mendez Rodriquez), a guerrilla belonging to the Salvadoran (?FMLN). The girl, who was wounded, gave the noms de guerre of all the dead: (Rufino), (Jaime), (Candido), (Inez), (Sonia), (Otto), (Eltegro), (Byron), (Ricardo), (Paco), (Napolean), (Edgar), (Oscar), (Daniel) and (David) [all names as heard]. None of these has been identified by his proper name."

Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish at 1230 GMT on 2 December adds: Gen Manuel Benedicto Lucas Garcia, chief of the presidential general staff, "said that the dead guerrilla chiefs are Commander (Jaime), a Cuban national, Commander (Rolando) and Commander (Inez). Commander (Inez) is believed to be Dr Julia Solorzano Foppa, who had appeared in foreign periodicals which published interviews of guerrilla leaders in Guatemala. It was presumed she was linked to subversion and had originally come from Mexico."

NUEVO PROGRESO POLICEMAN KILLED IN CLASH

PA021505 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] One person was killed and one person wounded in an armed clash which lasted over 30 minutes in the town of Nuevo Progreso, San Marcos Department.

The clash occurred between policemen and a large group of armed men who attempted to seize the town.

According to reports arriving from San Marcos Department, the deceased is the deputy chief of the local police substation, Mr (Freddy Miguel Castillo Lopez), 28. Mrs (Elizabeth Gobines Flores), approximately 30, received several bullet wounds.

The unidentified, heavily armed individuals attempted to seize the town of Nuevo Progreso, San Marcos Department, but the local police officers repelled the attack, forcing the attackers to flee. The incident occurred early yesterday morning.

The reports state that there was blood along the attackers' escape route, which leads to the belief that some of them were wounded. Later, the authorities ordered an extensive search in the area for the purpose of capturing the perpetrators of this armed action.

HONDURAS

POLICE DISCOVER PLAN TO KIDNAP PROMINENT PERSONS

PA021923 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The daily newspaper EL HERALDO reported in today's issue that the weapons seized from the terrorist groups throughout the country came from Nicaragua.

The [word indistinct] members of the self-styled Honduran People's Liberation Front, FHLP, which the police began dismantling Friday in this capital, perpetrated the latest holdups of banks and businesses in San Pedro Sula. They were also ready to begin kidnapping wealthy people in the north and in Tegucigalpa.

According to the police, the guerrilla group they discovered on Friday at dawn was composed of 16 people, of whom 5 were in Tegucigalpa, 6 in San Pedro Sula and an equal number [as heard] in La Ceiba. Most of them were deserters from the Sandinist army. There are Hondurans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans and nationals of other countries among them, according to the police reports.

The police said the subversives were already prepared to begin intimidating and kidnapping high-ranking Honduran personalities to extort large ransoms for them. They also planned to kidnap wealthy people.

In another report on page 30, EL HERALDO says: A people's jail discovered by the police in San Pedro Sula. The [word indistinct] jail was built by an FHLP cell. It was found in the Las Palmas district of San Pedro Sula. It was built underground and equipped with air conditioning units and other items required to keep kidnap victims there.

Maj (Lazaro Avila Soleno), commander of the 2d region of the Public Security Forces [FUSEP] visited the jail yesterday afternoon in the company of newsmen and FUSEP officers. The jail was built on a lot on 8th Avenue between 20th and 21st Streets in the (Las Palmas) district in southwestern San Pedro Sula.

FMLN GUERRILLA COMMANDER ARMIJO RELEASED

PA021743 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1459 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran guerrilla Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo, Commander Francisco, has been released by the Honduran police and deported to Mexico, according to unofficial reports in this capital.

Armijo was captured on 2 November in the central offices of the Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise, in downtown Tegucigalpa.

Honduran groups of solidarity with the Salvadoran guerrilla struggle denounced the capture of the guerrilla commmander, who is one of the leaders of the FMLN's southeastern front.

According to the unofficial reports, Armijo was held in the general police headquarters in Tegucigalpa and the Mexican Government negotiated his release and deportation with the Honduran Government.

Armijo's father, Claudio, is a writer and the spokesman for the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador in Europe. He has reportedly confirmed his son's liberation.

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA ON DEFENSE, U.S. ECONOMIC POLICIES

PA020426 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 1 Dec 81

["Face the People" program with the participation of Commander Daniel Ortega, Dr Sergio Ramirez and Dr Rafael Cordova Rivas, members of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, held in San Juan del Sur on 28 November -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] We have been thinking these past few days about the situation of San Juan del Sur, trying to find an immediate solution to the problems of San Juan del Sur and we have asked the companeros ministers to try to find those solutions.

This is the same type of concern we have when we are confronted with similar problems in the mines or in Managua. These are the serious problems that the revolution and the people of Nicaragua are facing. We are facing these problems not because we want to or because resources are being concentrated in just one area, but because we have a difficult economic situation. We have to say so and repeat that, unfortunately, we have here, close to Nicaragua, very close I would say, a powerful country called the United States of America that is hurting us constantly. It is hurting us economically. This affects all the efforts and all the plans that we try to carry out. All our efforts are affected when the United States takes measures that hurt our economy.

Approximately 2 or 3 weeks ago, a public recommendation was made in the United States which told U.S. citizens not to travel to Nicaragua. This affects Nicaragua economically. There might be some people in the United States who might be frightened for what the government is saying and will therefore refrain from traveling to Nicaragua.

Also, when we point out the effect of the U.S. economic policy, we also must take into consideration the U.S. military threats which also force us to invest part of our few resources. They force us to invest human and material resources and money in the defense of our revolution.

We don't have enough resources to help us find a solution that will satisfy all of us. But we will seek a solution in accordance with our resources. It is necessary that all of you present the problems (?that are not new) and that we try to find a solution to them. All the ministers, government officials, everyone, should try to find an orderly solution to these problems so that we might overcome these moments of deep crisis in Nicaragua and the crisis the residents of San Juan del Sur are going through.

Before we listen to your questions and to the suggestions you may have to offer to solve these problems -- because we must not expect the junta and the ministers alone to suggest solutions; you also have to contribute suggestions because you are a fundamental part in the execution and direction of this revolution -- we would like to salute the people of Corinto [corrects himself] of San Juan del Sur, excuse me. We wish to salute you; we wish mainly to congratulate you in the name of the National Directorate and of the government junta for your reply to the defense issue. Your reply can be termed as optimal. It is one that is not the same throughout the country. You have formed a militia battalion and the companeros are telling me that a women's company has been formed for the defense of our revolution.

Now that we mentioned Corinto, we are sure that the companeros of Corinto will also know how to do the same and that they will make a big effort for defense, like the one you have made and are making.

D'ESCOTO DENIES ALLEGED PLANS TO ACQUIRE MIG'S

PA022038 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1929 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Panama City, 2 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto today denied U.S. charges that the Sandinist government is moving toward totalitarianism or is planning to acquire Soviet MIG fighters from Cuba.

"They are making those accusations to justify their threats, but they must understand that we will not yield to threats -- not even to an invasion," d'Escoto said.

"We do not want to die, but we prefer death over treason, and we will not betray our people or the blood of our martyrs," the foreign minister told this agency.

After a 2-day meeting of Latin American foreign ministers, d'Escoto said he expected to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig in an attempt to improve the relations, affected by U.S. charges of Nicaraguan support for leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

D'Escoto stressed that he would try to obtain a private meeting with Haig during the OAS meeting that starts on St Lucia island in the Caribbean today.

"If the United States makes an effort and accepts that our revolution is irreversible, then we could reach an understanding," the Nicaraguan foreign minister said.

D'Escoto rejected U.S. accusations that Nicaragua was sending Soviet and Cuban weapons to the Salvadoran leftist guerrillas.

"We respect the principle of nonintervention; the United States does not do this," d'Escoto maintained, in an apparent reference to the major economic and military aid Washington is giving the ruling civilian-military junta of El Salvador, which is fighting the guerrillas who want to topple it.

D'Escoto denied that Nicaragua is getting ready to receive Soviet MIG fighter planes, which according to the U.S. State Department were sent to Cuba recently.

"We are improving our airports with donations which were given to (former dictator Anastasio) Somoza for that purpose. We do not want any MIG's," d'Escoto added.

Editor Doubts MIG Reports

PA022001 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] There is a lot of exaggeration in news reports about the presence of MIG planes in Nicaragua, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, deputy director of the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA, told ASSOCIATED PRESS in San Jose, Costa Rica. Chamorro Barrios has been in San Jose for the past few days for a journalism congress related to tourism.

Chamorro Barrios said that he has not seen any of those airplanes in his country. I don't think there are any, he added. There has been a lot of exaggeration about this. If there were any, we would already know about it. [Break in station transmission] so many times threatened by Yankee imperialism and the Somozist counterrevolutionaries.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PA021424 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Despite the threatening rhetoric and the specific aggressions of the U.S. Government against Nicaragua, relations between the two countries continue to develop within a normal framework, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco said yesterday.

Here is Deputy Foreign Minister Tinoco commenting on U.S.-Nicaraguan relations:

[Begin recording] I would say relations with the United States are normal but there is a certain degree of tension. This tension is the result of the rhetoric that the U.S. administration (?launches) against Nicaragua. There is normalcy from the viewpoint of the structures existing in both countries. Both countries are in the process of appointing ambassadors and so forth. However, [words indistinct] that the daily aggressive and threatening statements don't help this. Therefore, one would not be mistaken if one describes the relations as tense. We think [words indistinct].

It would be very important if there were a meeting at the foreign minister level. However, the reality is that this has not been arranged. We will make efforts so this will be achieved. We reiterate that Nicaragua wants to maintain the best relations with the United States, to achieve the best and highest level communication with the United States. For this reason and no other, we are interested in talks. [end recording]

RAMIREZ MERCADO DECRIES U.S. 'THREATS'

PA022144 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Nicaraguan junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, warned the United States that an invasion of his country would involve all of Central America.

In an interview granted to PATRIA LIBRE, a Nicaraguan weekly, Ramirez Mercado said that the U.S. threats of aggression are real and not merely imagined, since Secretary of State Alexander Haig himself is making them.

The Sandinist leader emphasized that amid the threatening campaigns waged against Cuba and Nicaragua, it is of note that the U.S. Government hardly ever mentions El Salvador. This is because it knows that the situation has been growing steadily worse for the regime ruling that Central American nation, he said.

BRIEFS

DONATIONS, EXPORT -- Ten thousand metric tons of wheat donated by Denmark to our country will arrive at the port of Corinto next Monday. Also, on 1 December, 15,000 tons of fertilizers will arrive from Canada at the ports of (Sandino) and Corinto. Next week the National Meat Enterprise, ENCAR, will export 300 tons of beef to Miami. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 81 PA]